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AMBLECOTE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

R E P O R T S
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR ENDING
DECEMBER 31st, 1957



Medical Officer of Health

J. H. SIMPKISS, M.B., Ch.B.

Public Health Inspector

T. A. WASS, M.A.P.H.I.,

AMBLECOTE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

For the Year ending December 31st 1957.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you the Annual Report for the year ending December 31st 1957.

The Vital Statistics show a Crude Death Rate of 16.6 per 1000 of the population, as compared with 8.6 for 1956. The Live Birth Rate was 12.3 per 1000 of the population, as compared with 12.6 for 1956. There were no Still-births. The Infantile Mortality Rate was 54 per 1000 live births.

Housing and Overcrowding are dealt with in the Report of the Public Health Inspector.

There has been no change in the Industrial Circumstances of your District since my last report.

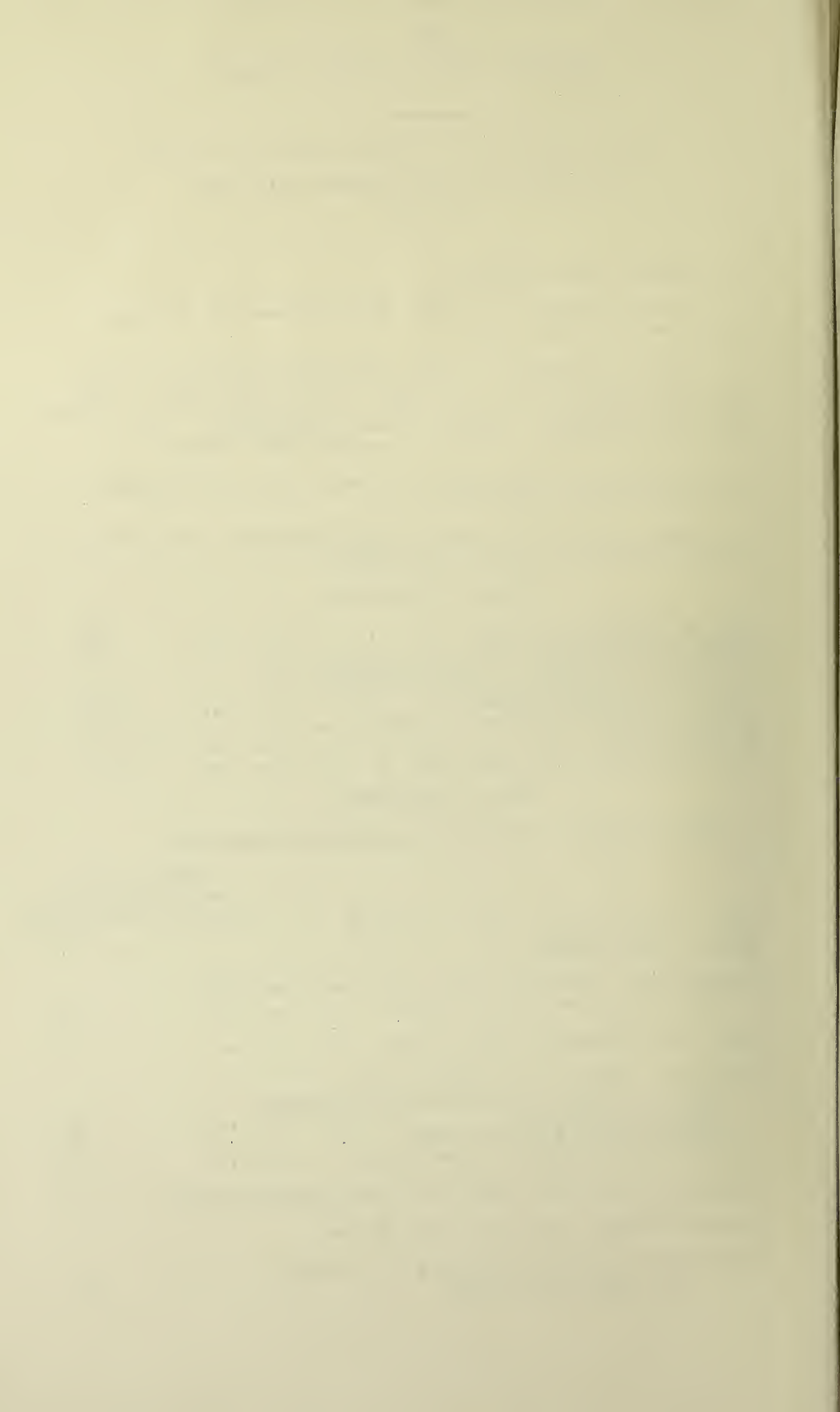
GENERAL STATISTICS.

| | | | | | | |
|--|----|----|----|----|----|---------|
| Area of District in Acres | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 665 |
| Number of Persons per acre | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4.5 |
| Population (Registrar General's Estimate of Resident population, middle of 1957) | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3000 |
| Number of inhabited houses | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 974 |
| Average number of persons per house | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3.1 |
| Rateable Value | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | £43,604 |
| Sum represented by a Penny Rate | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | £173 |

VITAL STATISTICS.

Rate per 1000 of the Estimated Resident Population.

| | | | | Rate per 1000 of the Estimated Resident Population. |
|--|----------------|-----------|-------|---|
| | | | M F | |
| Live |) Legitimate | Total 37: | 18 18 | 12.3 |
| Births |) Illegitimate | : | 1 - | |
| Still-Births, Legitimate, Total Nil; Rate per 1000 | | | | |
| Total (live and still-births) | | | | Nil. |
| Birth Rate, England & Wales, 1957 | | | | 16.1 |
| Deaths 50 - Males, 21; Females, 29; | | | | |
| Crude Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population | | | | 16.6 |
| Adjusted Death Rate per 1000 | | | | 16.1 |
| Death Rate, England & Wales, 1957 | | | | 11.5 |
| Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis or other Puerperal causes | | | | Nil. |
| Deaths of Infants under one year of age | | | | 2 |
| Death Rate of Infants under one year of age: (per 1000 live births) | | | | 54 |



Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:-

| | | | | | | | |
|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|-------------|
| England and Wales | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 23 per 1000 |
| Deaths from Cancer (all ages) | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 9 |
| Death Rate from Cancer per 1000 of the population | | | | | | | 3 |
| Deaths from Measles (all ages) | . | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | Nil |
| Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) | | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | Nil |
| Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | Nil |
| Total number of Deaths | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 50 |

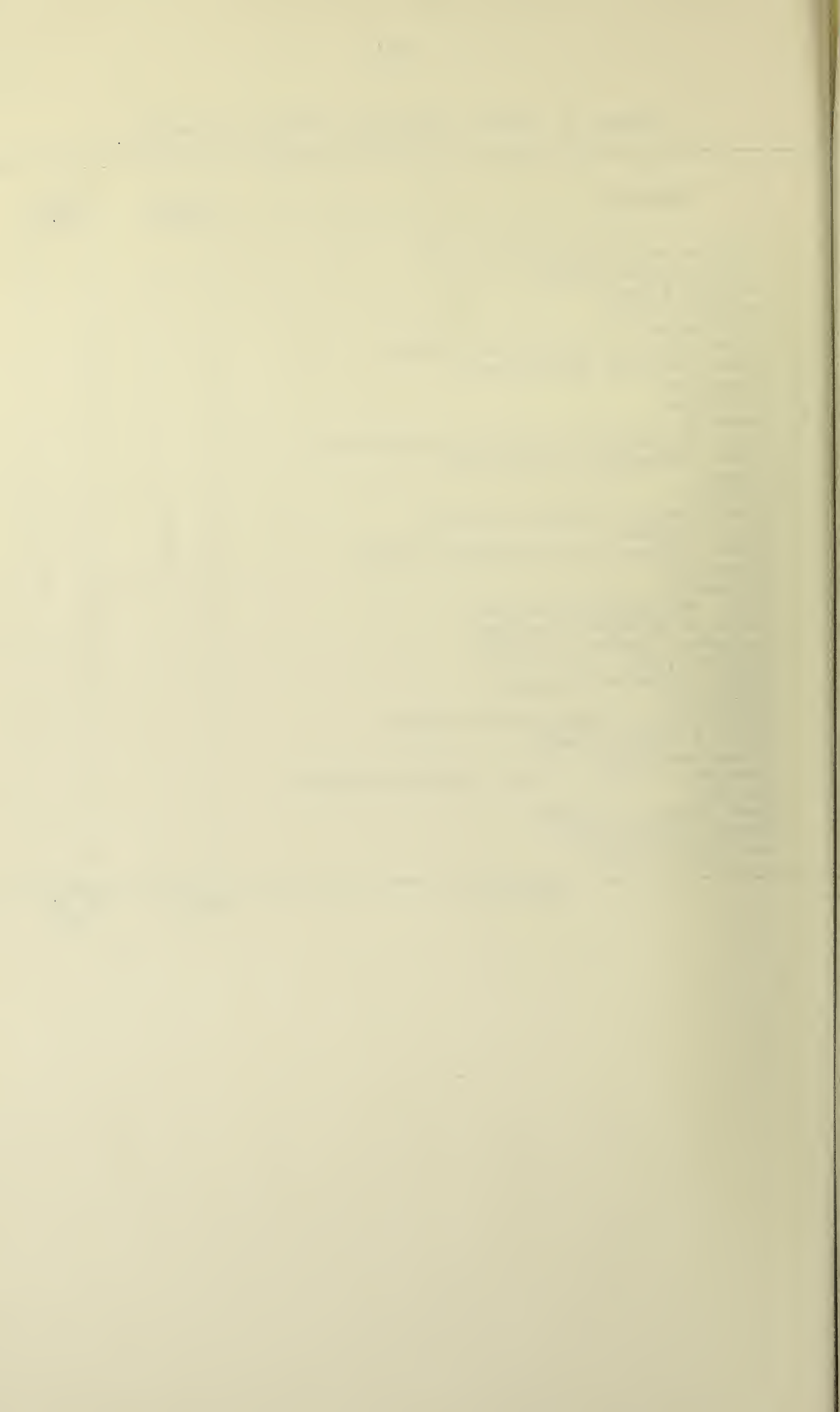
Ages at which Deaths Occurred

| Under 1 year | 1-5 | 5-15 | 15-25 | 25-45 | 45-65 | 65 and over |
|-----------------|-----|------|-------|-------|-------|----------------|
| 2 | Nil | 1 | 1 | 2 | 10 | 34 |

17 of these deaths occurred at ages from 70 to 80 years, and
13 over 80 years.

CAUSES OF DEATH (Registrar General's Return).

| DISEASES. | <u>1956</u> | | <u>1957</u> | |
|---|-------------|----|-------------|----|
| | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers | - | - | - | - |
| Cerebro-Spinal Fever | - | - | - | - |
| Scarlet Fever | - | - | - | - |
| Whooping Cough | - | - | - | - |
| Diphtheria | - | - | - | - |
| Tuberculosis of Respiratory System | - | - | 2 | - |
| Other Forms of Tuberculosis | - | - | - | - |
| Syphilis | - | - | - | - |
| Influenza | - | - | - | - |
| Measles | - | - | - | - |
| Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis | - | - | - | - |
| Acute Infectious Encephalitis | - | - | - | - |
| Cancer | 2 | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| Diabetes | - | - | - | - |
| Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions | - | 2 | 5 | 6 |
| Heart Disease | 5 | 8 | 4 | 9 |
| Other Diseases of Circulatory System | - | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Bronchitis | - | - | 3 | 2 |
| Pneumonia | 2 | - | 2 | - |
| Other Respiratory Diseases | 1 | - | - | - |
| Ulcer of Stomach & Duodenum | - | - | - | 1 |
| Diarrhoea (under 2 years) | - | - | - | - |
| Appendicitis | - | - | - | - |
| Other Digestive Diseases | - | - | - | - |
| Nephritis | - | - | - | - |
| Puerperal and Post-Abortive Sepsis | - | - | - | - |
| Other Maternal Causes | - | - | - | - |
| Premature Birth | - | - | - | - |
| Congenital Malformations and Birth Injuries | - | - | - | 1 |
| Suicide | - | - | - | - |
| Road Traffic Accidents | - | - | - | 1 |
| Other Violent Causes | - | 1 | - | - |
| All other Causes | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| TOTALS | 11 | 15 | 21 | 29 |
| | 26 | | 50 | |



PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health
J. H. Simpkiss, M.B., CH.B.,

Public Health Inspector
T. A. Wass, M.A.P.H.I., CERT S.I.B.
CERT. MEAT & FOODS.

ADOPTIVE ACTS
as 1938

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AREA.

Laboratory Facilities:

All Clinical Material sent to the County Bacteriologist,
Stafford.

Bacteriological Examinations:

| Number of Specimens sent for Report | | .. | .. | .. | .. | 11 |
|-------------------------------------|-----|-----------|-----------|----|----|----|
| Total. | | Positive. | Negative. | | | |
| Diphtheria (Swabs) | Nil | Nil | Nil | | | |
| Sputum | 11 | 3 | 8 | | | |

The duty of providing the following services has been laid upon Staffordshire County Council in accordance with the provisions of the National Health Service Act, 1946, viz:

Health Centres;

Care of Mothers and Young Children;

Midwifery;

Health Visiting;

Home Nursing;

Vaccination and Immunisation;

Ambulance Services;

Prevention of Illness - care and aftercare;

Domestic Help;

Blind Persons;

No powers have been delegated to the Council.

HOSPITALS

GENERAL AND FOR THE TREATMENT OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

These are controlled by a Regional Board and are available for the treatment of Patients who have been duly notified.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. (i) WATER. As 1938.
- (ii) DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE. As 1938.
2. RIVERS & STREAMS. As 1938.
3. (i) Closet Accommodation.
- (ii) Verminous Persons and Premises.

The particulars will be found in the Report of the
Public Health Inspector.

- (iii) Swimming Baths and Pools. As 1938.
4. SCHOOLS. One Primary School situated within the area, under the jurisdiction of Staffordshire County Council.
5. DISPOSAL OF THE DEAD. As 1938.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1957.

1. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices:-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers Nil

2. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

- (A) - PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 9, 10 & 12 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1957:-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices:-

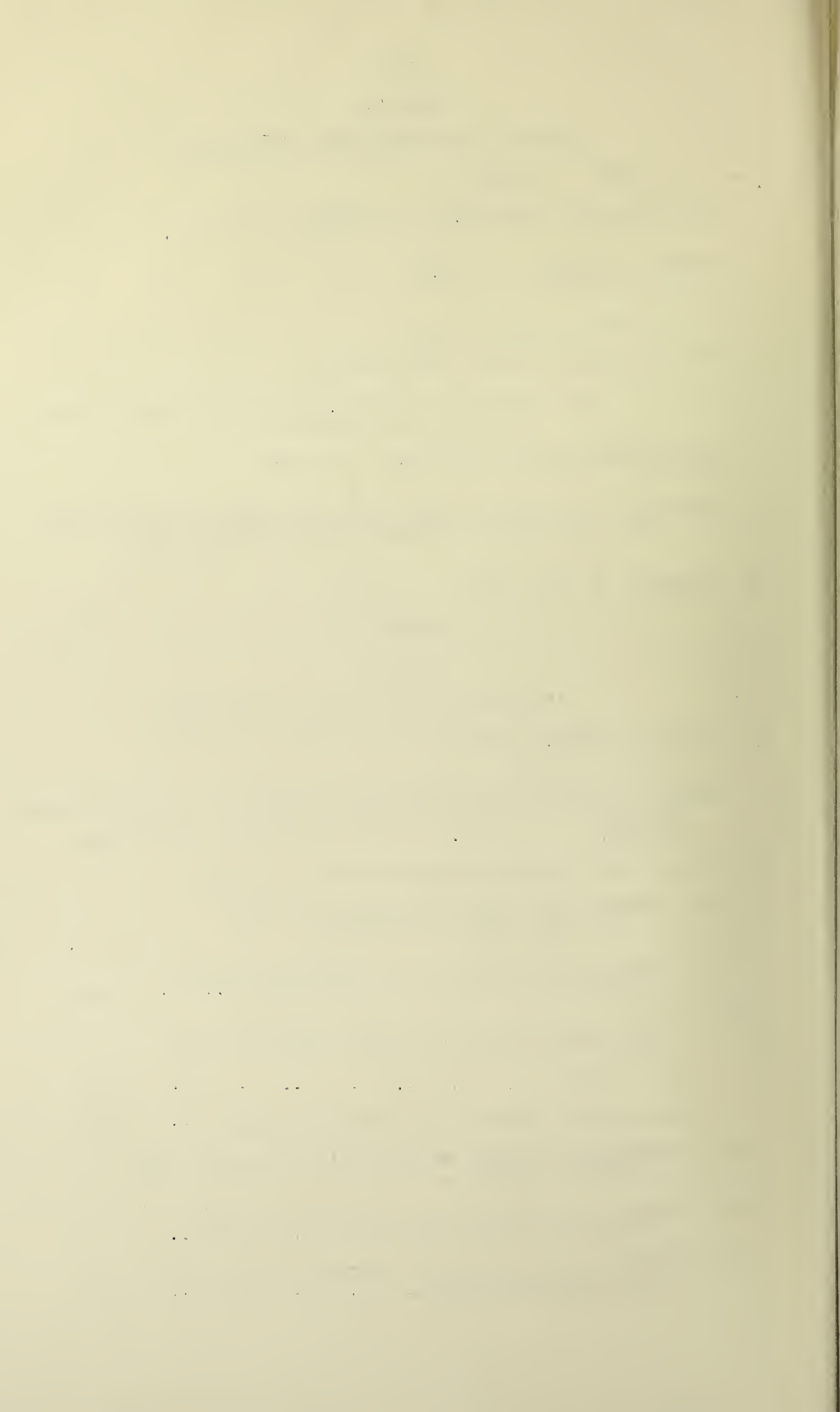
(a) By Owners Nil

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners .. Nil

- (B) - PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 16, 17 & 23 OF THE HOUSING ACT 1957:-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 1

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders Nil



(C) - PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 18 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1957:-

- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made Nil
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit .. Nil

4. Housing Act, 1957 - Part IV - Overcrowding:-

- (a) (1) Number of Dwellings overcrowded at end of year (1957) Nil
- (2) Number of families dwelling therein Nil
- (3) Number of persons dwelling therein Nil
- (b) Number of New Cases of Overcrowding reported during the year Nil
- (c) (1) Number of Cases of Overcrowding relieved during the year Nil
- (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases Nil
- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding Nil

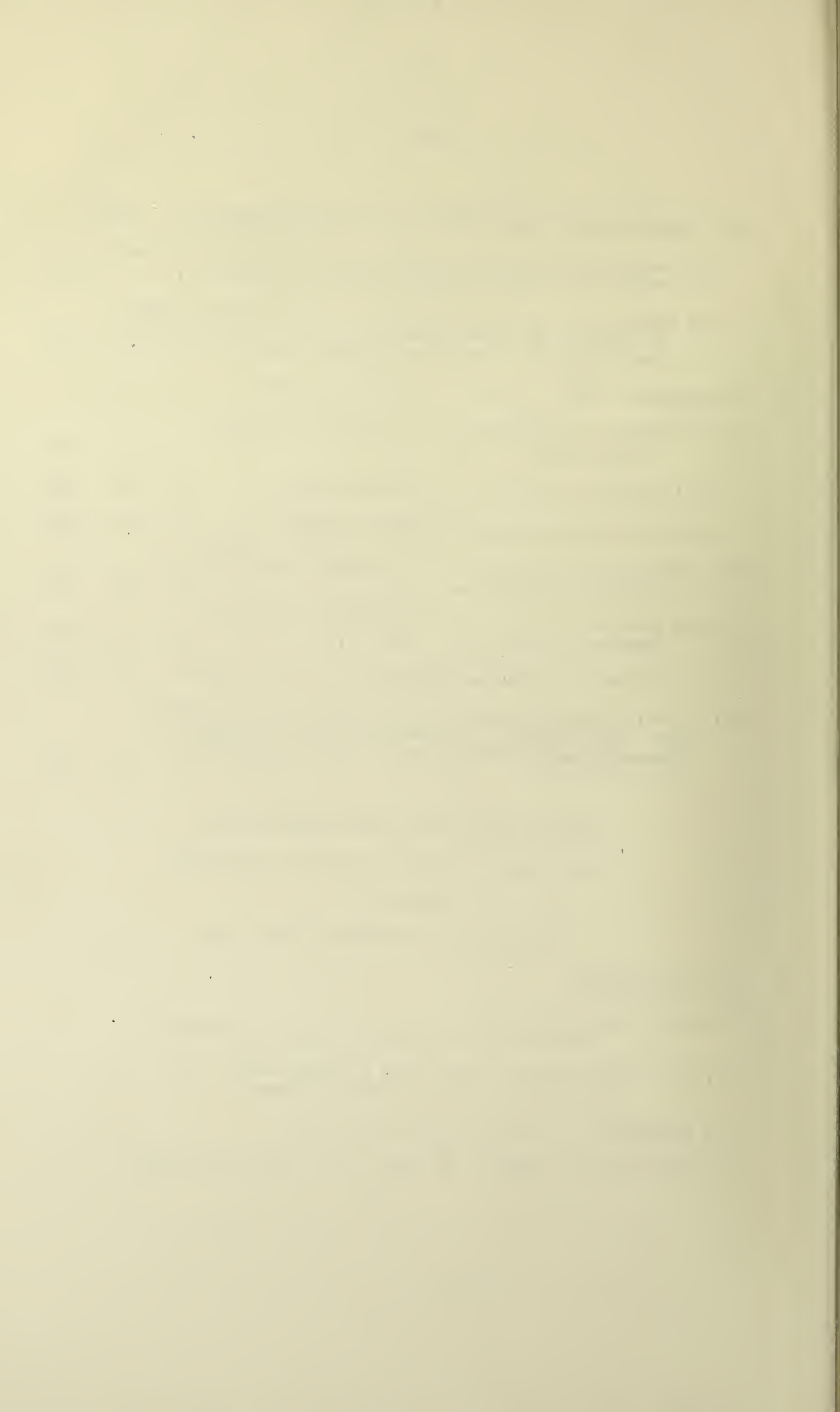
HOUSING CONDITIONS AND OVERCROWDING

(See Report of Public Health Inspector)

SECTION E.

INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

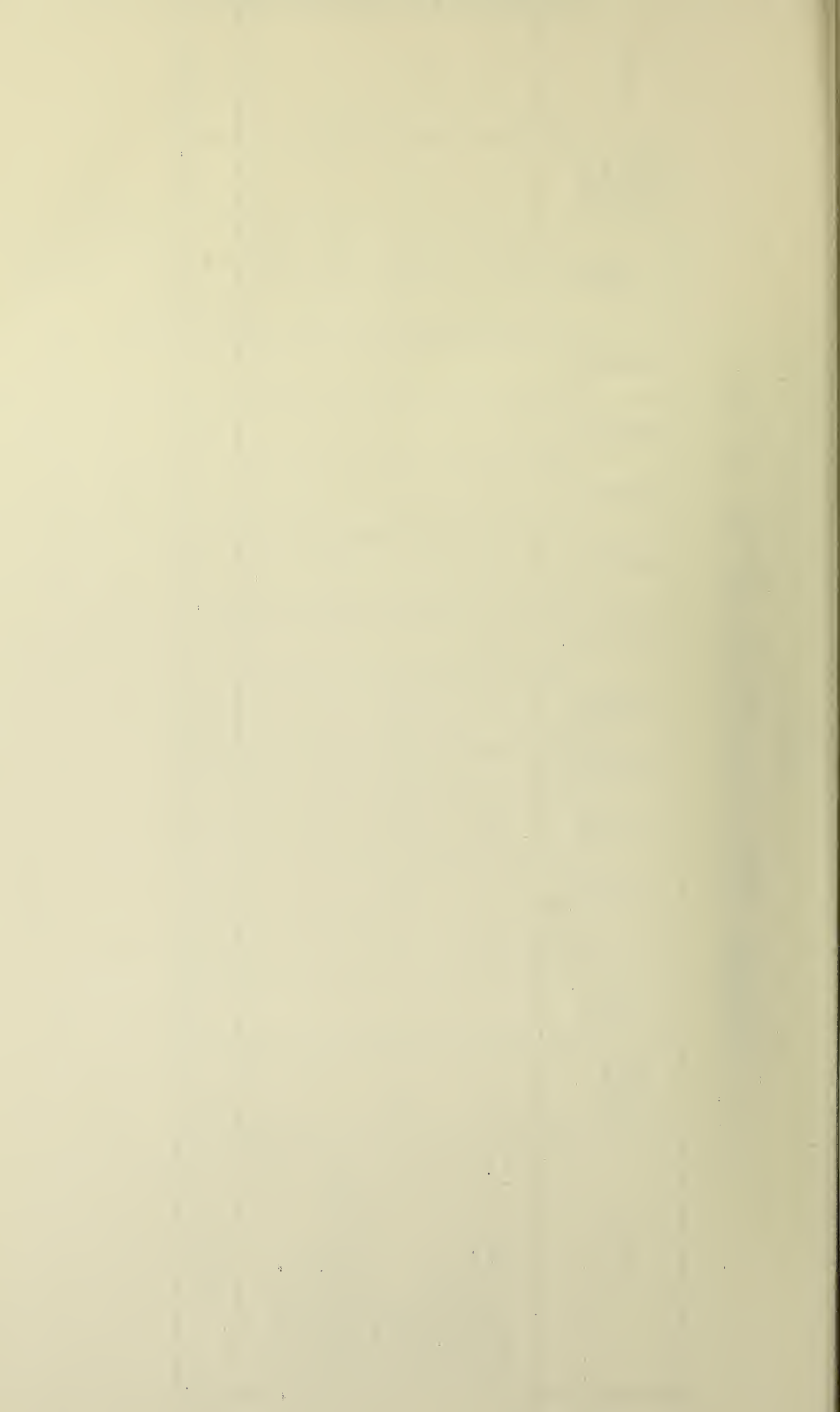
- (a) Milk Supply
- (b) Meat and other foods.
(See Report of Public Health Inspector).
- (c), (d) Adulteration, etc. Food & Drugs Acts, etc. - are administered by the County Council.
- (e) Nutrition: No action has been taken.
- (f) Shell Fish: Little, if any, sold in the District.



SECTION F.

PREVALENCE & CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.
(-) NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1957.

| DISEASE. | Total No. of Cases | under 1 year | 1 to 2 yrs | 2 to 3 yrs | 3 to 4 yrs | 4 to 5 yrs | 5 to 10 yrs | 10 to 15 yrs | 15 to 20 yrs | 20 to 35 yrs | 35 to 45 yrs | 45 to 65 yrs | over 65 yrs | Cases sent to Isolat'n Hos- pital. | Deaths |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|--|--------|
| Enteric Fever | 3 | | | | 1 | | | 2 | | | | | | | |
| Scarlet Fever | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Whooping-cough | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Diphtheria | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Erysipelas | 49 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Smallpox. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Measles | | | 6 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 29 | | | | | | | | |
| Pneumonia | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cerebro-spinal Fever | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Polio-myelitis | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Encephalitis | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dysentery | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Totals | 52 | - | 6 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 29 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

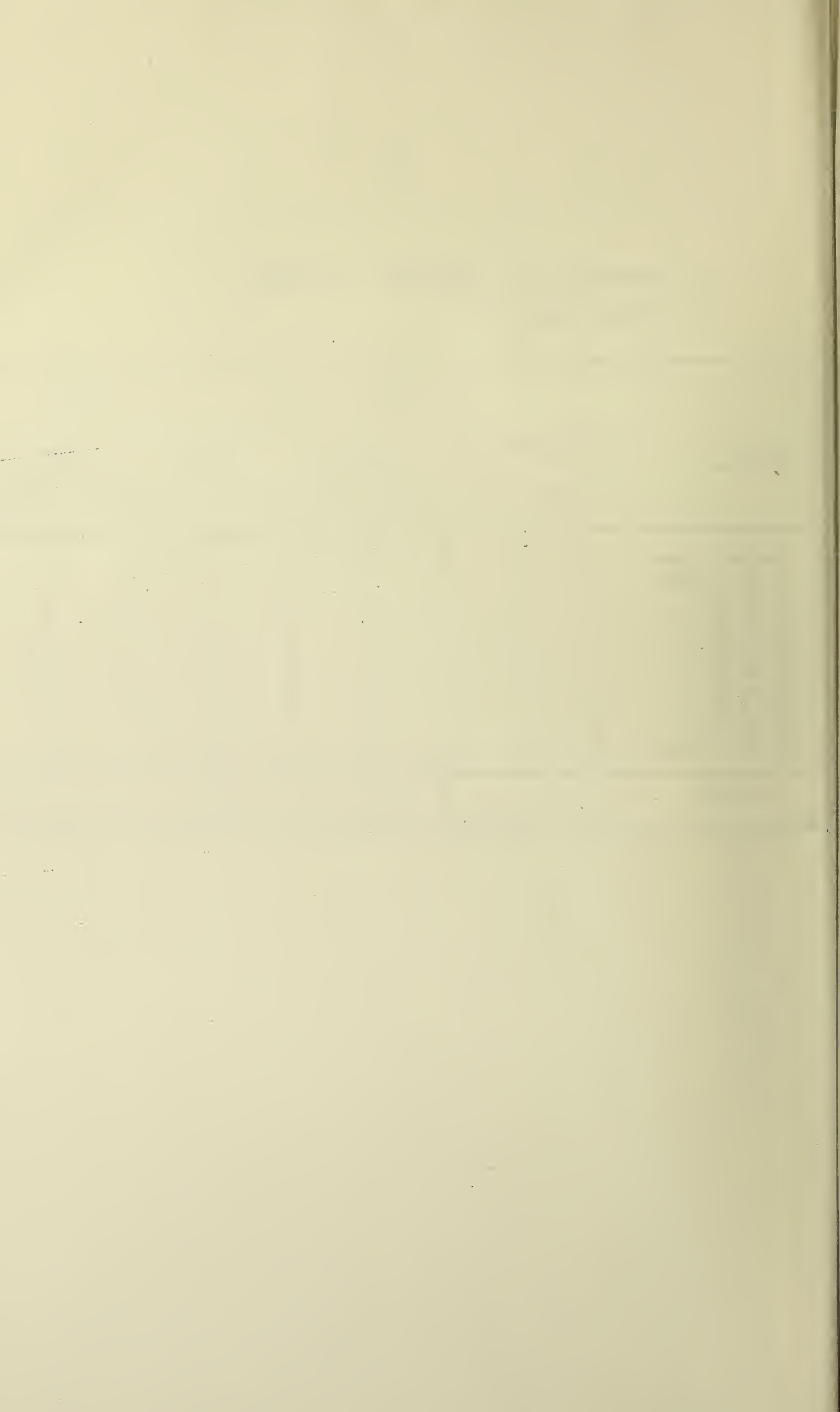


(8)

5. (a) PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS. As 1938.

(b) TUBERCULOSIS, 195

| Age Periods. | New Cases | | | | Deaths | | | |
|-----------------|-------------|----|---------------------|----|------------------|----|---------------------|----|
| | Respiratory | | Non- Respiratory | | Respira- tory | | Non- Respiratory | |
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| Under 1 year | | | | | | | | |
| 1 to 5 years | | | | | | | | |
| 5 to 10 " | | | | | | | | |
| 10 to 15 " | | | | | | | | |
| 15 to 20 " | | 1 | | | | | | |
| 20 to 25 " | | | | | | | | |
| 25 to 35 " | | | | | | | | |
| 35 to 45 " | 1 | | | | | | | |
| 45 to 55 " | | | | | | | | |
| 55 to 65 " | 1 | | | | 1 | | | |
| 65 and upwards | | | | | 1 | | | |
| TOTALS | 2 | 1 | - | - | 2 | - | - | - |



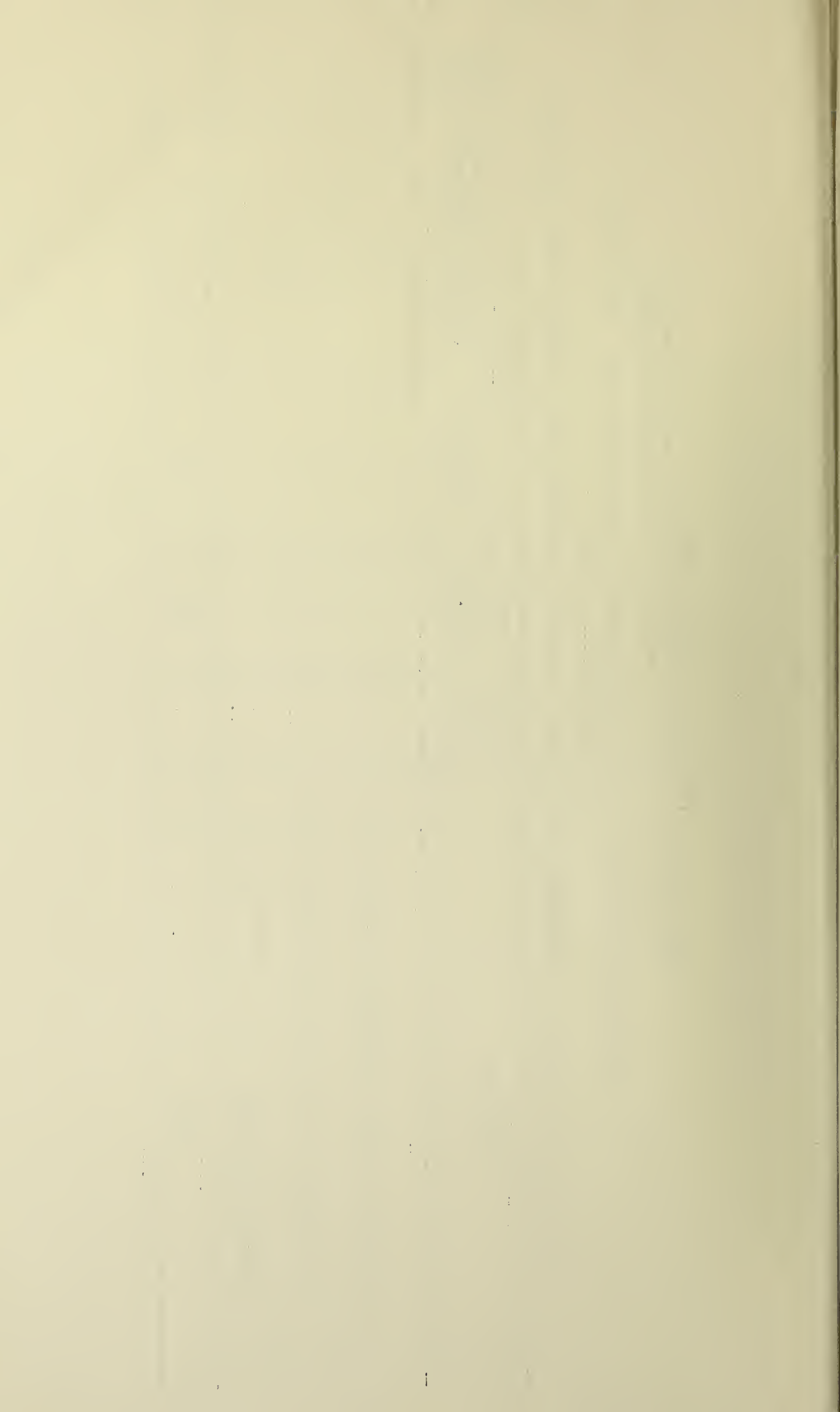
FACTORIES ACT, 1937 & 1948

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1957
for the Urban District of Amblescote in the County of Stafford.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937 & 1948

INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspector).

| Premises (1) | M/c line No. (2) | Number on Register (3) | Number of | | | M/c line No. (7) |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| | | | Inspections (4) | Written notices (5) | Occupiers prosecuted (6) | |
| (i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .. | 1 | 4 | 4 | - | - | 1 |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the local Authority... .. | 2 | 45 | 47 | 6 | - | 2 |
| (iii) Other Premises under the Act (excluding out- workers' premises) | 3 | - | - | - | - | 3 |
| Total | | 49 | 51 | 6 | - | |



2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

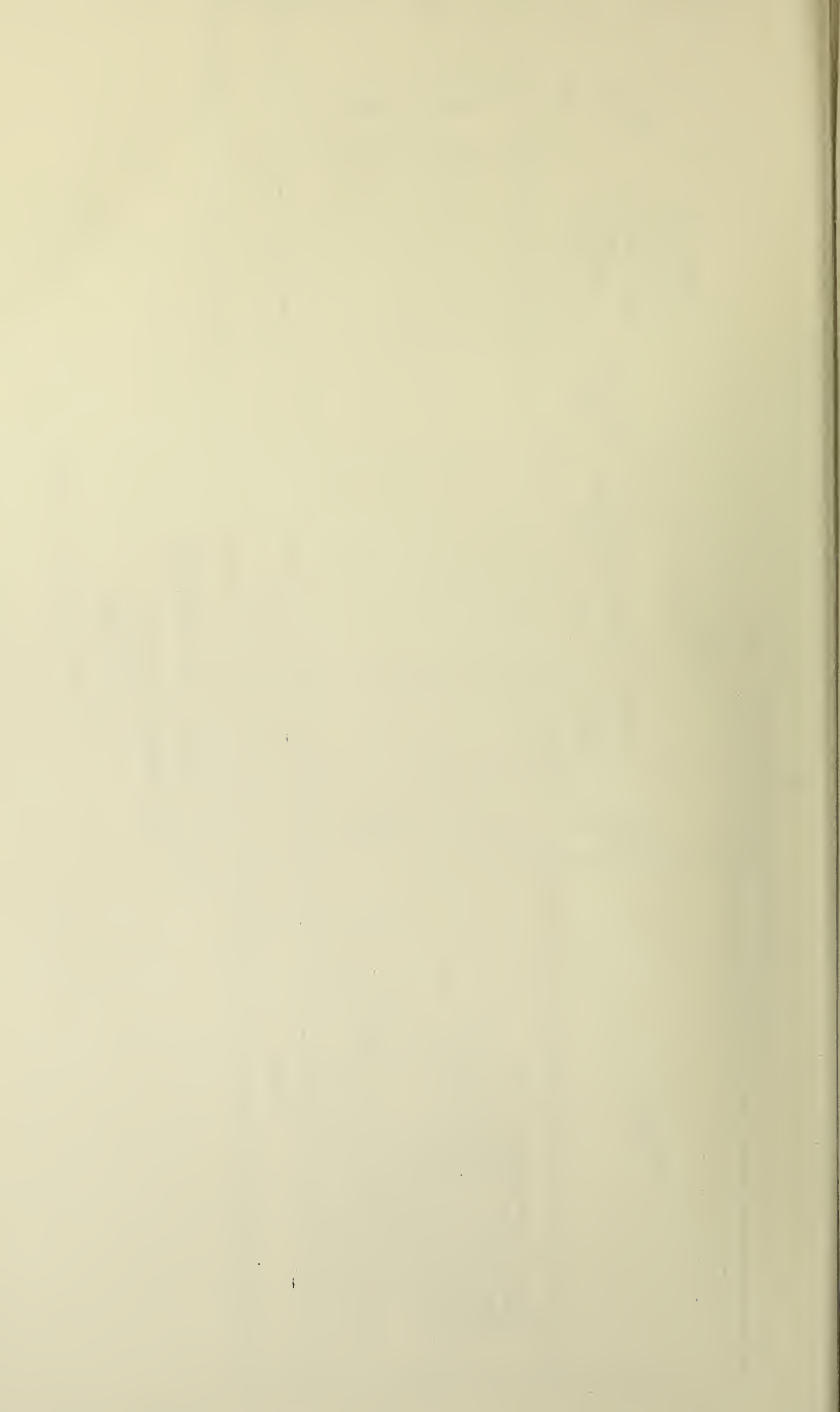
| Particulars (1) | Number of cases in which defects were found | | | | Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7) | M/c line No. (8) |
|--|---|-----------|--------------|--------------------------------|---|------------------|
| | M/c line No. (2) | Found (3) | Remedied (4) | Referred To H.M. Inspector (5) | By H.M. Inspector (6) | |
| Want of cleanliness (S.1) | 4 | 2 | 2 | | | 4 |
| Overcrowding (S.2) | 5 | | | | | 5 |
| Unreasonable temperature (S.3) | 6 | | | | | 6 |
| Inadequate ventilation (S.4) | 7 | | | | | 7 |
| Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) | 8 | | | | | 8 |
| Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) | 9 | | | | | 9 |
| (a) insufficient | 10 | | | | | 10 |
| (b) unsuitable or defective | 11 | 4 | 8 | | | 11 |
| (c) Not separate for sexes | 12 | | | | | 12 |
| Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework) | | | | | | |
| TOTAL | | 6 | 10 | | | |

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. H. SIMPKISS,

Medical Officer of Health.



AMBLECOTE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1957

- - - - -

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you my annual report for the year 1957, as follows:-

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

| | |
|--|-----|
| Houses provided with Water Closets | 963 |
| Houses provided with Pan and Earth Closets | 11 |
| Houses provided with separate Water Closets | 844 |
| Houses provided with Water Closets in common | 119 |

During the year one Pan Closet has been converted to Water Closet. The houses that have Pan and Earth Closets are situated in parts of your district where sewer accommodation is neither available nor practicable.

REMOVAL OF HOUSEHOLD REFUSE

All houses are provided with suitable portable receptacles for the household ashes and refuse. It has not been found necessary to put into operation a scheme for the provision of Dust Bins by the Council. Notices requiring the replacement of worn out receptacles have been complied with and no proceedings have been necessary. Refuse Removal is carried out by direct labour and the collection is bi-weekly. It is hoped to inaugurate a weekly service shortly. Disposal is by controlled tipping. The refuse tip situated in Holly Bush Lane was closed and an alternative site in Vicarage Road was obtained. The new tip involved longer haulage and together with other factors it was decided to dispose of the horse drawn vehicle. A Karrier Bantam Refuse Lorry was purchased to replace it and this has proved very satisfactory.

Salvage.

Salvage is not collected.

Parcels of Paper can be left at the Council Offices or, if the quantity is sufficient, are called for by arrangement with the Chief Public Health Inspector, Brierley Hill.

HOUSING

The housing situation still presents a difficult problem. Enquiries are being made with a view to possible development in order to commence the rehousing of persons in unfit houses. One house only was erected during the year.

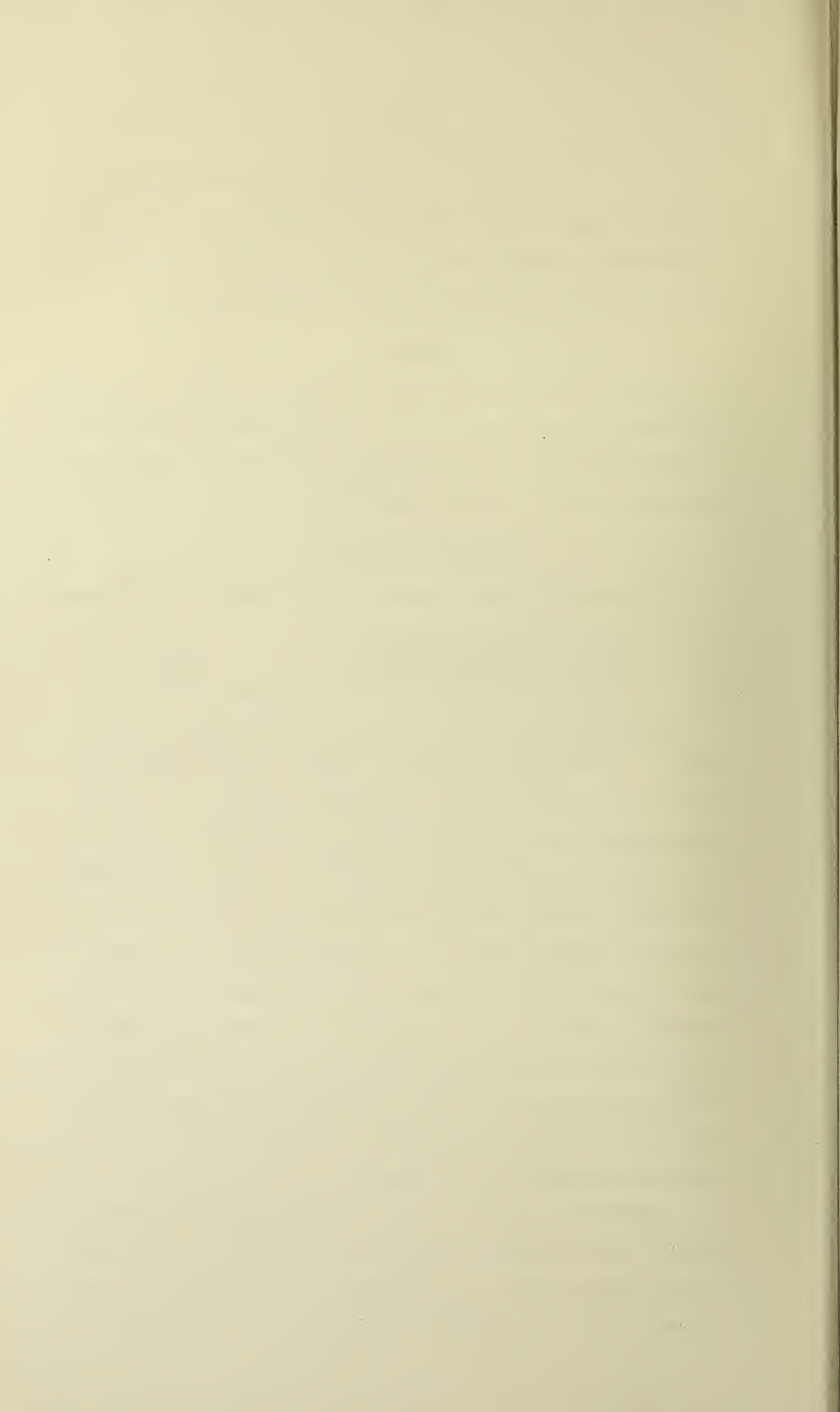
HOUSING CONDITIONS

The houses in your district may be classified as follows:-

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|-------|
| Houses with one bedroom | 1 | } 974 |
| Houses with two bedrooms | 335 | |
| Houses with three bedrooms | 553 | |
| Houses with more than three bedrooms | 85 | |

One house was closed in lieu of demolition during the year. A survey of the district showed that 68 properties may have to be demolished. The time in which this can be accomplished will depend on the availability of alternative accommodation for the persons displaced. The total number of dwellings provided by the Council is 251. 203 of them are traditional houses and 48 three storey flats. Post War building has been as follows, viz:- 80 houses and 48 flats. No Repair Notices under the Housing Acts have been issued. 44 Informal and Statutory Notices within the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, were served in respect of miscellaneous defects at 45 houses. No proceedings at the Magistrates Court were necessary.

Improvement Grants. Three applications were made for Grants, one of which was refused as the work did not amount to the £100 minimum. A sum equal to the product of a rate of 3d. in the £ per annum is available for this purpose.



RENT ACT 1957.

A large number of enquiries were dealt with and the Act appears to have been very successful in improving the state of repair of many houses. Only three applications for certificates of disrepair were made all of which were granted.

Overcrowding. Although a number of houses are occupied by two families, there is little actual overcrowding and practically none if the Statutory Table is applied. As stated under the Heading General Statistics the average number of persons per house is 3.1. A majority of applications for Council Houses are from married sons and daughters residing with their parents who wish to have homes of their own. The number of separate families is estimated to be about 1120 accommodated in 974 houses.

NOMADIC CARAVAN DWELLERS

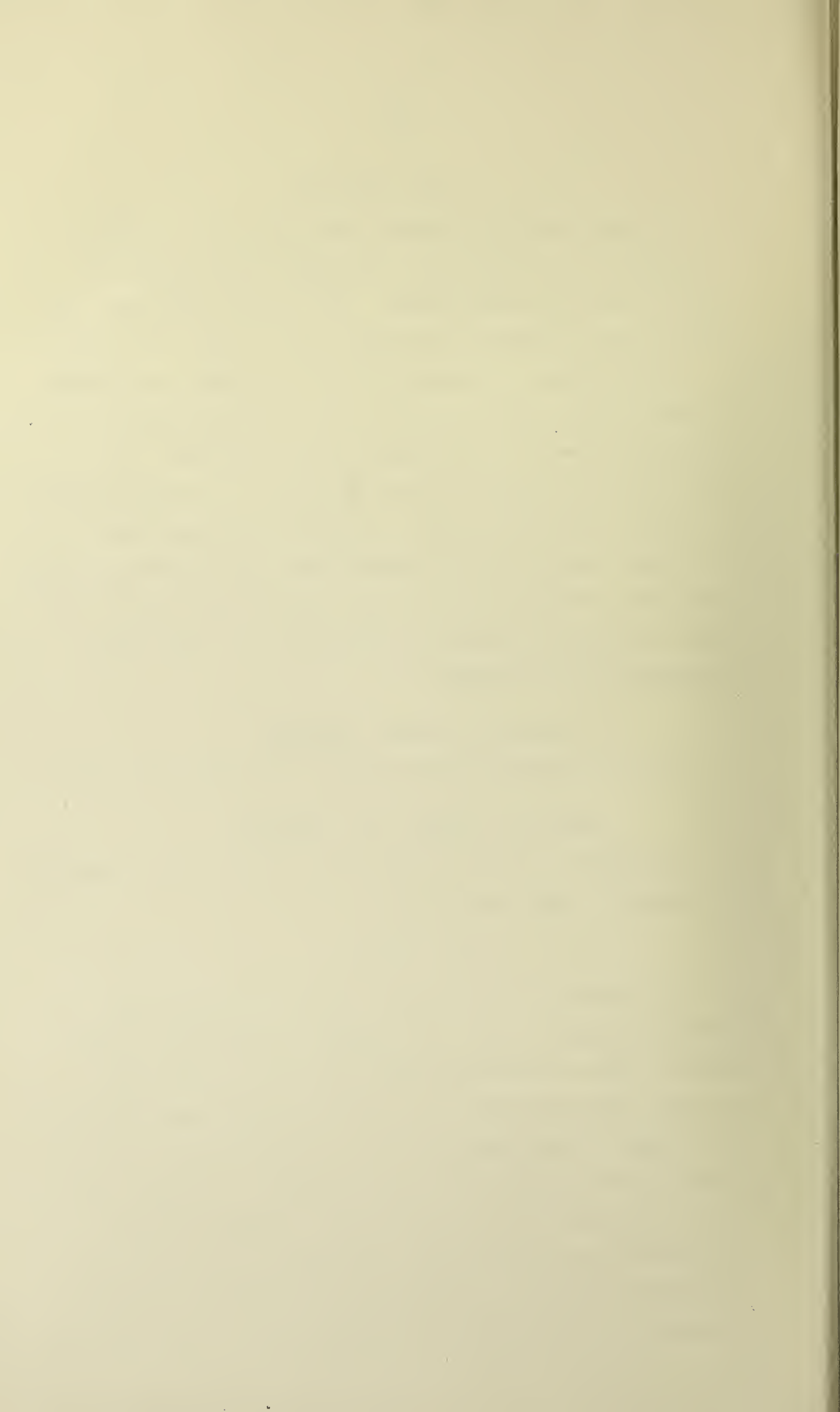
As in the previous year, 1957 has been free from visitors.

VERMINOUS PERSONS AND PREMISES

No premises have been found to be infested and no complaint of infestation has been received.

WATER SUPPLY

All premises, excepting one, obtain a continuous and wholesome supply of water for drinking and domestic purposes from the mains of the Stourbridge and District Water Board of which Amblecote Council is one of the constituent authorities. It is pumped direct from Bore Holes at Wollaston Road and Mill Meadow, both of which are in your district. A further bore hole is situated in an adjoining area. Samples of water for Chemical and Bacteriological Examination are submitted at frequent intervals to Laboratories provided by the County Councils of Staffordshire and Worcestershire. The tests show



(4)

a certain hardness but otherwise the water is of excellent quality for drinking and domestic purposes.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955 MILK

Milk is produced at two farms in your area. It is taken for treatment direct to a Dairy in adjoining district. There is no Dairy in Amblecote. As the Urban District is a Specified Area all milk sold is either tuberculin tested, pasteurised or sterilised. Supplementary Licences to retail Milk in Amblecote have been issued to 10 persons whose premises are outside the district and 13 Shopkeepers within the District have each received a Retailer's Licence.

FOOD - PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS

No Slaughter-house is in use in your district. There are three retail Butchers. They obtain their meat as follows:- (1) from Dudley (Dudley Co-operative Society); (2) from Wolverhampton Abattoir; (3) from Kidderminster. In each instance there is 100% inspection by qualified Inspectors. The quality of meat retailed is high. There have been no seizures or surrender of unsound meat. Very few pigs are fed by ordinary householders. No notices to slaughter swine, etc. on private premises were received during 1957.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933. One person only is licensed to slaughter or stun animals in a Slaughter-house. There is no Knacker Yard in your district.

FOOD HYGIENE

All the food shops and canteens have been inspected regularly and it has not been found necessary to take any Legal Proceedings.

Food is sold by retail in the following shops:-

Business premises only - Grocers 5; Butchers 1; Greengrocer 1.
Combined shops and dwelling houses - Grocers and General 9;
Butchers 2; Greengrocers 3; Sweets, Tobacco, etc. 3; Fried Fish 2; Café 1.

Worcestershire County Council have a Cooking Centre where meals are prepared and served.

Eleven factories have Canteens for their employees.

One "Model" Bakery (Factory) is in operation from which Bread is distributed over a wide area.

No Ice Cream is manufactured in your area. 20 premises are registered for the storage and sale thereof. They are each fitted with a suitable "Conservator". The premises comprise 17 Shops, 1 Café, 1 Sports Pavilion and 1 Public House.

One market, a private one, operates for the sale and distribution of agricultural produce. It is also used as an Egg Packing Station. There is no public market nor are there any stalls for street trading.

UN SOUND FOOD

One consignment of apples with excessive arsenic contamination was traced and after suitable treatment passed for sale.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS

The following premises have been treated for infestations of Rats and Mice, viz:- Factories 6, Hospital 1, Dwelling Houses 5. The factories are, by arrangement, treated quarterly. The work is performed by an "Operator" employed by Brierley Hill Urban District Council. The assistance in this direction of the Chief Public Health Inspector at Brierley Hill, is appreciated. A charge to cover the cost of treatment is made in respect of premises other than dwelling houses. The Sewers have not been treated as tests proved negative.

SMOKE AND ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

The year has seen a gradual improvement in this field. One foundry has replaced two coal fired annealing furnaces with oil fired furnaces and in doing so has eliminated a persistent trouble maker. At another factory the electrification of the central heating system has proceeded apace and they are now

converting the remaining boiler plant to burn coke instead of coal.

Some improvement has been achieved with the nuisance of fumes from Iron Foundries by using better types of core oils. It is regretted, however, that under certain atmospheric conditions the fumes do not disperse very rapidly and give rise to complaint.

PET ANIMALS ACT 1951.

No premises are licenced.

PETROLEUM ACT

23 premises are licenced to store petroleum spirit in the area, the total amount licenced being 27,210 gallons. Licence fees amounted to £15. 15. 0.

1 licence covering the storage of 224 lbs. Calcium Carbide was issued, the fee amounted to 5s. 0d.

In conclusion I would like to thank my colleagues and staff for the assistance rendered to me.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee my thanks for their confidence and support.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
T. A. WASS
Public Health Inspector.

